

## Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACI IMMEDIATE 8728

S E C R E T KINSHASA 5927

NODIS/CHEROKEE

FOR SECRETARY ONLY FROM SCHAUFELD

E.O. 11652: GDS-EXEMPT

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH MOBUTU

1. I HAD BREAKFAST JULY 13 WITH MOBUTU AT HIS RESIDENCE IN LUBUMBASHI. FONMIN NGUZA AND AMBASSADOR CUTLER PRESENT FOR BREAKFAST AFTER WHICH I SPENT 50 MINUTES ALONE WITH MOBUTU. I SPOKE FROM MORE LIMITED TALKING POINTS DESIGNED FOR MOBUTU, HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY AND SENGHOR.

2. AS EXPECTED MOBUTU FIRMLY SUPPORTS ANY WESTERN EFFORTS WHICH MIGHT PROVE SUCCESSFUL IN MOVING SOUTHERN AFRICAN PROBLEMS TO NEGOTIATED SOLUTION.

3. HE IS CONVINCED THAT MACHEL'S AIMS IN RHODESIA REFLECT THOSE OF SOVIET UNION. OAU DECISION TO CHANNEL AID TO LIBERATION MOVEMENTS THROUGH LIBERATION COMMITTEE MOBUTU CONSIDERS A DISASTER. COMPOSITION OF OAU LIBERATION COMMITTEE, LOCATION ITS HEADQUARTERS IN DAR ES SALAAM, AND FACT THAT SOVIETS PRIMARY SOURCE OF ARMS AID AND THAT MOZAMBIQUE CONTROLS ACCESS TO GUERRILLA BASES ALL CONFIRM TO HIM THAT USSR HAS STAKE IN INCREASED VIOLENCE.

4. I TOLD HIM THAT MY PERSONAL IMPRESSION WAS THAT SO-CALLED THIRD FORCE IDEA HAD SO FAR PROVED TO BE A FAILURE AND THAT I DETECTED SOME DRAWING-BACK ON PART OF SOME WHO HAD SUPPORTED IT. MOBUTU CONCEDED THAT THIS MIGHT BE THE CASE BUT THAT THOSE BEHIND IT WERE

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WELL-ORGANIZED AND TENACIOUS AND WOULD PROBABLY NOT GIVE IT UP.

5. IN DISCUSSING THE NEED FOR A RAPID NEGOTIATED SOLUTION FOR RHODESIA WHICH COULD PRESERVE THE BASICALLY HEALTHY AND RELATIVELY ADVANCED RHODESIAN ECONOMY, MOBUTU, PROBABLY BECAUSE OF ZAIRE'S DEPENDENCE ON RHODESIA FOR COAL, CORN AND AS ROUTE FOR COPPER EXPORTS, EMPHASITICALLY underscored THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS ASPECT.

6. I TOLD MOBUTU THAT I UNDERSTOOD HE WOULD BE SEEING KAUNDA, KHAMA AND NYERERE IN ZAMBIA AND HE WOULD HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO SUPPORT THE GENERAL CONCEPT OF A QUICK, NEGOTIATED SOLUTION. HE AGREED. I ALSO TOLD HIM THAT I HAD SEEN NKOMO WHO HAD TOLD ME HE HOPED TO VISIT KINSHASA. IN PART I DID THIS BECAUSE, AS MOBUTU INFORMED ME, MUZOREWA HAD RECENTLY BEEN HERE AND IS PROBABLY THE SOURCE OF SOME OF MOBUTU'S IDEAS.

7. REGARDING NAMIBIA HE SPOKE UP FOR SWAPO. I REMINDED HIM OF OUR POSITION ON NAMIBIA BUT EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT, SHOULD A REAL PROSPECT FOR PROGRESS ON THE NAMIBIAN QUESTION DEVELOP, THE FRIENDS OF SWAPO WOULD ADVISE IT NOT TO GET BOGGED DOWN IN DEMANDS WHICH COULD ONLY IMPEDE ANY PROGRESS WHICH MIGHT BE POSSIBLE. MOBUTU AGREED SAYING THAT IN NEW SITUATIONS ONE SHOULD BE PREPARED TO ADOPT NEW POSITIONS.

8. COMMENT: WE CAN EXPECT SUPPORT BUT NOT MUCH OF A CONTRIBUTION FROM MOBUTU. IF THE PROCESS WE ARE ENGAGED IN IS TO BE SUCCESSFUL HIS SUPPORT COULD BE HELPFUL, HOWEVER, AT SOME STAGES. HE DOES NOT LIKE TO TALK ABOUT IT FOR OBVIOUS REASONS, BUT ZAIRIAN COPPER PRODUCTION IS DEPENDENT ON RHODESIAN COAL AND INCREASING AMOUNTS OF RHODESIAN CORN ARE APPEARING ON THE MARKET IN THE SHABA REGION. OUR EMBASSY ESTIMATES ZAIRIAN PURCHASES FROM RHODESIA AT \$35 MILLION ANNUALLY. THEREFORE ZAIRE ECONOMIC INTERESTS ARE SERVED BY THE SMOOTHEST POSSIBLE TRANSITION IN RHODESIA. IF THERE WERE A REAL THREAT MOBUTU MIGHT BE WILLING TO PLAY A MORE ACTIVE ROLE.

I THINK THAT VISIT HERE IS A VERY USEFUL ONE FROM BILATERAL POINT OF VIEW AND WE SHOULD KEEP MOBUTU GENERALLY INFORMED AS WE GO ALONG, BUT I WOULD NOT, AT THIS MOMENT, COUNT ON HIM AS MAJOR FACTOR IN THIS PROCESS.

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